

Application No.: 10/632611

Case No.: 58008US002

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 have been canceled. Claims 27-33 have been added. Claims 27-33 are pending. Support for new claims 27-33 appears in general throughout the specification and in particular at: page 2, line 22; page 4, line 18; page 6, lines 1-2 and line 12; page 7, lines 1-2 and 19-21; page 7, line 24; and page 8, line 8.

§ 102 and §103 Rejections

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 11 and 13-25 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Steck et al. (Re. 33467). Claims 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steck et al. (Re. 33467). Claims 12 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steck et al. in view of Rado (U.S. Patent No. 3,001,348).

New claims 27-33 are believed to be patentable over the cited references for the following reasons. New independent claim 27 is directed to a method of making a pressure sensitive adhesive (PSA). The method includes, among other things, providing an unsupported heat sealable web, sealing the web along at least one side edge, forming a first transverse seal in the web thereby forming a partially formed pouch, filling the partially formed pouch with a polymerizable liquid monomer mixture, forming a second transverse seal, polymerizing the liquid monomer mixture, and blending the polymerized liquid with the web material, thereby forming the PSA.

None of the cited references taken alone or in combination teach or suggest such a method. In particular, none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest a method of making a PSA, a method of making a PSA using an unsupported web, or a method of making a PSA wherein the liquid monomer mixture is polymerized in sealed pouches and the polymerized contents of the pouches are then blended together to form the PSA.

The patent to Steck et al. (U.S. Patent No. Re. 33,467) discloses a method and apparatus for sealing packaging material including a metallic foil layer, an exterior layer of a thermoplastic material, and layer of paper ("polyfoil") for food products and liquid products such as milk or orange juice. (See Steck et al., col. 1, lines 10-36). Steck et al., however, fail to disclose, teach or suggest a method of making a PSA, a method of forming a sealed pouch using an unsupported

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web, or a method of making a PSA wherein the sealed pouches are filling with a liquid monomer mixture, polymerizing the liquid monomer mixture, and then producing a PSA by blending the contents of the pouches with the material used to form the pouches.

The patent to Rado (U.S. Patent No. 3,001,348) discloses an apparatus for the continuous production of filled containers. Rado, however, also fails to disclose, teach or suggest a method of making a PSA or a method of making a PSA wherein the sealed pouches are filled with a liquid monomer mixture, polymerizing the liquid monomer mixture, and then producing a PSA by blending the contents of the pouches with the material used to form the pouches.

Applicant therefore submits that the teachings of these references in no way render the present invention as defined by new independent claim 27 unpatentable. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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